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PART

FOREIGN OFFICE

DEPT.

TITLE: Kuwait : Political Affairs (External)

BILATERAL: TREA: RELATIONS WITH

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19 April, 1967.

You have now seen telegrams Nos. 124 and 125 from Kuwait, and you asked for a note on the extent of the present defence commitment to Kuwait. I attach such a note.

(Sd.) D. I. Morphet

A.M. Palliser, Esq., C.M.G.,
10 Downing Street.

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ELU
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DEFENCE OF KUWAIT

No. 10 have asked for details of the action which might be required of us if yesterday's incident on the Kuwait/Iraq border (Kuwait telegram No. 124) led the Kuwait Government to invoke our defence undertaking to them.

The new concept which emerged from the Defence Review, under which our commitment is limited to the provision of air support, unless we are given sufficient time (probably several weeks) to bring in ground forces from outside the theatre, took effect on 1 February 1967. The Kuwait Government have been notified and accept the position. A new "air only" plan has been drawn up and is in effect.

The plan provides for daylight patrols by the squadron of Hunter fighters/ground attack aircraft from Bahrain along the Iraq frontier and over Kuwait town, within one hour of our agreeing to render assistance. A second squadron of Hunters from Aden would be available over Kuwait in 24 hours. Two squadrons of Canberras from Cyprus could be

/deployed

deployed to Sharjah within 36 hours. In addition the plan provides for a squadron of Lightnings to be deployed from the United Kingdom to Bahrain within 6 days. Should the situation require it these aircraft would engage Iraqi forces within Kuwait territory and - on specific Ministerial authority - targets within Iraq.

Authority for responding to a Kuwaiti request and for the calling up of reinforcements from Cyprus and the U.K. is reserved to Ministers.

The plan provides for two States of Alert, A and B. Alert A, which may be declared on the authority of the Political Resident in Bahrain in the light of indications that the Iraqis have forces in a position to threaten Kuwait, entails the shortening of notice for RAF units. Alert B may only be declared on the authority of Ministers, and involves a high degree of readiness and the possible movement of aircraft.

In the present situation Alert A has not been declared and our forces are at their normal state of readiness. It appears from Kuwait telegram No. 125 that the Kuwaitis are taking a relaxed attitude

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to the incident, and that our assistance is unlikely to be called for. GCHQ have no evidence of abnormal Iraqi activity.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
19 April, 1967.

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HW *Am* *14*

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200545Z April

From: CINC MIDEAST

Date: 20.4.67

To: MOD UK

Recd: 0820Z



CORRECTED VERSION
20.4.67

IMMEDIATE

TLL

This is a copy of my 192225Z:

TOP SECRET from CINCMIDEAST to JHQPG CINC Far East HQNEAF

TLL MIDCOS 69/20 April.

For CDS. JHQPG for Commanders.

Reference: Our TLL/191457Z/MIDCOS 68/19 April. Kuwait.

1. Kuwait Liaison Team reports that situation now back to normal and that Kuwaiti troops returning to peace locations.

200545Z

Advance copy to
CDS, DOC (6), PS/CAS,
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191457Z April

From: CINC MIDEAST
To: MOD UK
Info: CINC FEA

Date: 19.4.67

Recd. 1631Z

TLL MIDCOS 68/19 April.
For CDS.

Kuwait

1. We learn from Kuwait Liaison Team (through HQ RAFPG) that an Iraqi incursion in strength has occurred. Kuwait forces have come to state of alert and moved to forward positions. Council of Ministers met today but outcome not known. Only request for assistance so far has come through OC KLT for Canberra standby at dawn tomorrow.
2. PRPG is aware of situation.
3. No action is being taken at this stage other than certain precautionary measures (mainly on the air side) within the Command.

191457Z
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